

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A clamp assembly for repairing a bone defect in a cranium and operable to fix a bone plate relative the surrounding cranium, each of the bone plate and surrounding cranium having a near face and a far face, the clamp assembly comprising:

a cap;

a base opposing the cap; and

a post having an elongate body rotatably attached to the base and defining threads that receive a corresponding mating portion of the cap, the post further and including a torque-limiting feature, the post engaging the cap and base to fasten the cap and base relative one another and secure at least one of the bone plate and cranium between the cap and the base.

2. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 1, further comprising an applier operable to rotate the post to position the cap relative to the base in a fastening position.

3. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 2, wherein the applier is removable from the post while leaving the cap and base interconnected.

4. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 2, wherein the applier includes a body having a keyed bore.
5. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 4, wherein the post includes a key for engaging the keyed bore of the applier.
6. (Currently Amended) The clamp assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~post~~ includes external threads are formed along substantially the entire length of the post.
7. (Withdrawn) The clamp assembly of claim 6, wherein the cap includes an internally threaded collar for mating engagement with the threads of the post.
8. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 1, wherein the post includes external ribs.
9. (Withdrawn) The clamp assembly of claim 8, wherein the cap includes a collar for ratcheting the cap along the threads on the post.
10. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 1, wherein the cap and base have opposing inner faces that face each other when assembled in use.

11. (Currently Amended) The clamp assembly of claim 10, wherein the cap includes teeth extending from the inner face to inhibit rotation of the cap relative to the ~~adjacent members~~ one of the bone plate and cranium.
12. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 1, wherein the torque-limiting feature prevents over tightening of the cap relative to the base.
13. (Currently Amended) The clamp assembly of claim [[1]] 2, wherein the post further includes a key disposed at a distal end of the elongate body.
14. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 13, wherein the key is operable to matingly engage the applier.
15. (Currently Amended) The clamp assembly of claim [[13]] 12, wherein the torque-limiting feature is disposed at a junction between the elongate body and the key.
16. (Withdrawn) The clamp assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the cap, base and post includes resorbable material.
17. (Withdrawn) The clamp assembly of claim 16, wherein the cap, base and post include resorbable material.

18. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the cap, base and post includes non-resorbable, biocompatible material.

19. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 18, wherein the cap, base and post include non-resorbable, biocompatible material.

20. (Original) The clamp assembly of claim 18, wherein the non-resorbable, biocompatible material is titanium.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of fixing a bone plate in a bony defect, wherein the bone plate has opposing internal and external surfaces that are to be held in position with internal and external surfaces of surrounding bone, and a transverse face of the bone plate is to be fixed in apposition against a transverse face of the surrounding bone along a border of junction between the bone plate and surrounding bone, the method comprising:

rotatably connecting an elongated externally threaded post to a base;

extending the post through a cap to engage the threaded post with the cap;

positioning the base and cap on opposing internal and external surfaces of the bone plate, with a portion of each of the base and cap overlapping the border of junction;

rotating the post to position the cap and base in a fastening position; and

limiting the torque applied by the post in the fastening position.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, further comprising removing a distal end of the post projecting from the cap.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, further comprising leaving a proximal portion of the post projecting from the cap.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, further comprising deforming the proximal portion of the post projecting from the cap to secure the base and cap in the fastening positioning.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, further comprising rotating an applier to cause the post to rotate in the base and position the cap and base in a fastening position.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein limiting the torque prevents over tightening of the cap and base.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein limiting the torque includes severing the post.

28. (New) A clamp assembly for repairing a bone defect in a cranium and operable to fix a bone plate relative the surrounding cranium, the clamp assembly comprising:

a cap defining a first engaging structure;

a base opposing the cap; and

a post coupled to the base and defining a second engaging structure, the first engaging structure mating with the second engaging structure to locate the cap at a desired location along the post and secure at least one of the bone plate and cranium between the cap and the base, the post further including a torque-limiting feature.

29. (New) The clamp assembly of claim 28 wherein the second engaging structure includes threads.

30. (New) The clamp assembly of claim 29 wherein the threads are formed along substantially an entire length of the post.

31. (New) The clamp assembly of claim 29 wherein the threads are defined along an outermost dimension of the post.

32. (New) The clamp assembly of claim 28 wherein the torque-limiting feature defines a D-shaped cross section.

33. (New) The clamp assembly of claim 28 wherein the torque-limiting feature includes a first portion having an outer radial surface that is substantially equivalent with an outer radius of a remainder of the post and a second portion defining a plane.